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LETTER DATED 24 FEBRUARY 1992 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 24 February 1992 from Mr. Ahmed Hussein, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, concerning the visit made to Baghdad by the special mission headed by Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, Chairman of the Special Commission.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir K. K. AL-NIMA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 24 February 1992 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic/English]

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Republic of Iraq has welcomed the mission dispatched by the Security Council and headed by Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission, which visited the country from 21 to 24 February 1992. Ambassador Ekeus has had three meetings with H.E. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, in addition to one extended meeting with H.E. Tariq Aziz, the Deputy Prime Minister, H.E. Minister of State Al-Sahaf and myself.

All matters of interest and concern to both sides were discussed in depth during these meetings at which also prevailed an atmosphere of candour and clarity as to the exchange of views on those matters.

During the meetings, the Iraqi side submitted its views towards reaching a common understanding based on objectivity, fairness and goodwill towards the matters under discussion, which were as follows:

I. Iraq reaffirms its willingness to cooperate and deal constructively with the mission headed by Ambassador Ekeus and with the Special Commission, and wishes to point out the following grounds:

1. Iraq is of the opinion that it has provided all the necessary information required of it. Iraq is ready to cooperate in the provision of any related additional information still deemed necessary and clearly related to the subject. Iraq believes that the best modality for implementing what is mentioned above is to have the opportunity to conduct an expert-level dialogue with the Special Commission to clarify the overall picture of each of the programmes concerned, and reach specific conclusions, especially in respect of the modification of equipment for non-prohibited purposes within a specified period of time.

2. Once this has been accomplished within a specified period of time, the Special Commission and the IAEA should then report to the Security Council that Iraq is in substantial compliance with its

His Excellency Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

obligations under Security Council resolution 687 (1991), and that Iraq requests the Security Council to draw a fair balance between the level of progress achieved at this stage and the position on the sanctions with a view to lifting them.

3. Iraq insists that the Special Commission take a clear position as to the first stage (the destruction of weapons and the identification of the equipment which produces them), in view of the link between this position and the position on the sanctions. Iraq also insists that the Special Commission present to the Security Council a fair and accurate factual report on this subject.

II. Proposed action

1. Iraq proposes that Iraqi experts be invited to present, in a consolidated form, the information required from Iraq, and to respond to the questions relating thereto.

2. To respond to any questions that may be raised by the Special Commission in this regard.

3. To enable adequate material balances to be established for all weapons and their components.

4. To provide credible detailed information on items destroyed unilaterally by Iraq.

5. To provide, upon specific requests, any available evidence relating to Iraq's declarations.

6. To discuss the scope of destruction proposed by the Special Commission, so as to ensure the specific non-prohibited use of the facilities, equipment, materials and components in an irreversible manner.

III. Plans for ongoing monitoring and verification

Iraq does not reject the plans for ongoing monitoring and verification. By recognizing resolution 687, Iraq has accepted the principle that the Security Council should ascertain and verify that industry in Iraq is not directed in a manner which does not satisfy the Security Council as to the non-production of prohibited weapons. In this regard, Iraq can deal with the Security Council and the Special Commission on the basis of respect for sovereignty and the requirements of national security, and of refraining from methods of provocation and infringement upon Iraq's industrial capabilities which will be devoted to peaceful purposes or to military purposes not prohibited by Security Council resolution 687.

IV. The Iraqi delegation to be dispatched to talk to the Security Council will convey Iraq's position on resolutions 707 and 715.

You are kindly requested to distribute this letter as a document of the Security Council.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Ahmed HUSSEIN
Minister for Foreign Affairs
The Republic of Iraq
Baghdad
24 February 1992